



VALLEY LAND ALLIANCE

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July 2, 2008 Tulare, California

To: The California Department of Food and Agriculture: Our Vision for Agriculture's Future to the year 2030

Valley Land Alliance is a 501 c (3) with a mission to educate and build alliances to protect our California Central Valley farmland.

Our vision: California must be proactive to save its farmland. This includes long term planning, beyond the terms of decision makers such as city council persons, county board of supervisors, county and city planning commissioners, state assemblymen and senators, and federal decision makers. Statewide protection of agriculture must be a priority. To guarantee food and fiber production, we must have water, land, and adequate clean air protection to grow our crops. We also must have continuous monitoring to detect detrimental intrusive pests which threaten our food productivity to avoid the use of harsh chemical application.

To accomplish this, our vision is to have statewide policy which will award development within present spheres of influence, will support sustainability and renewable energy, will guarantee that ground and surface water will be available at affordable prices for designated zoned farmland, will encourage good air quality through designing of our communities and transportation systems and will provide means to monitor for pests which have potential of destroying our crops.

History has shown us what can happen if we do not protect our habitat: land, water and adequate air and ability to produce food. Not only our crops may be in peril, but our society as well. Truly, the Central Valley is a State, no a National, treasure. Our finite resources must be protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Jean Okuye, President

"Protecting Our Unique Central Valley Farmland"

www.valleylandalliance.org